

What's New in the MPDC

MARCH 4, 2002

FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT ON POLICE USE OF FORCE

The MPDC's Force Investigation Team this week released its 2001 Annual Report analyzing use-of-force incidents and trends within the MPDC. Created in 1999 to investigate and analyze all deadly-force cases involving MPDC officers, the Force Investigation Team issues annual reports to inform Department leaders and the community on the latest trends and issues in this critical area. Statistically, the 2001 Annual Report shows that use of deadly force by MPDC officers has generally stabilized from the high levels of the early and mid-1990s. After declining 78 percent since 1998, officer-involved shootings did rise in 2001. Three people were killed and 14 were injured by firearm discharges last year, compared with six individuals injured and killed as a result of police firearm discharges in 2000. In 1998, by contrast, there were 20 injuries and 12 fatalities as a result of police-involved shootings. The MPDC did experience a decline in the number of accidental discharges and shootings at animals in 2001. In addition to statistical information, the 2001 FIT Annual Report outlines the organization, mission and investigative approaches employed by the FIT unit. You can get a copy of the latest FIT Annual Report by calling 202-727-9901, or by accessing it on-line at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/fit_ar_01_letter.shtm

CHIEF RAMSEY OUTLINES MPDC PERFORMANCE DURING JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING

In his testimony, the Chief reported on the MPDC's ongoing efforts to re-structure and re-invigorate the volunteer Police Reserve Corps program, as a way to supplement sworn staffing. Get complete details about the Reserve program, and initiate the application process, by calling 202-727-2767 or by going on-line at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

In testimony this past week before the Council's Judiciary Committee, Chief Ramsey outlined MPDC performance during fiscal year 2001 and the first five months of FY 2002. He focused on continued improvements in staffing, infrastructure, technology, traffic safety, community policing and customer service. The Chief reported that the PSA staffing plan presented to the Council earlier in the year has been implemented, with more than 1,800 officers, sergeants and lieutenants now assigned specifically to the PSAs.

Among infrastructure improvements, Ramsey cited the recent opening of the new Mobile Crime facility on V Street,

NE, and the new Fleet Maintenance facility, also in Northeast. He reported that the new headquarters for Regional Operations Command-North, at the former Petworth Elementary School, is scheduled to open this summer. The Chief described new technology improvements, including the Joint Operations Command Center and a new criminal investigation support system. And he updated the Committee on the progress of the "Policing for Prevention" community policing strategy. Read the Chief's entire statement at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/022502.shtm

Ramsey also provided the latest results of the District's photo radar speeding reduction program: a more than 50 percent reduction over the past six months in the percentage of vehicles exceeding the speeding threshold established for the program. Get details about photo radar and view the latest results at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm

10 "ROTATIONAL" RED-LIGHT CAMERAS BACK IN OPERATION FULL-TIME

Red-light cameras at 10 DC intersections that were part of a "rotation" program over the past year have been returned to service full-time. Since early last year, one camera was rotated among the 10 intersections to test the feasibility of such a rotation program. Now that the rotation experiment has ended, the MPDC has returned the cameras to full-time service at the 10 intersections. If the red-light camera program expands in the future, the MPDC will consider a similar rotation program, which other jurisdictions with red-light cameras often use. The 10 intersections with full-time cameras again are 14th and U, NW; 16th and Colorado, NW; 16th and Irving, NW; 16th and Oak, NW; Branch and Alabama, SE; Independence and 3rd, SW; K and 27th, NW; Mt. Olivet and West Virginia, NE; Pennsylvania and Minnesota, SE; and Rhode Island and First, NW. Because of recent construction on North Capitol Street, the red-light camera at North Capitol and Gallatin, NW, will remain out of service for the next few weeks. Get complete details about DC's red-light camera program, including the locations of all cameras, by going to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm>

UPCOMING: YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES PLANNED OVER SPRING BREAK

The MPDC, in conjunction with the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership and other sponsoring organizations, will hold a Youth Conference and Expo 2002 in late March-early April, to coincide with spring break for DC Public School students. The week-long event will culminate with a six-mile Bike-a-thon east of the Anacostia River on Saturday, April 6. The Conference and Expo are part of a continuing program by the MPDC's Office of Youth Violence Prevention and its partners to reduce violence committed by and against young people in various DC communities. To learn more about the Youth Conference and Expo 2002, and to register for the Bike-a-thon, call 202-727-7752 or visit:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News)

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING DC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FOR CAFRITZ AWARDS

The Cafritz Foundation is encouraging community groups and individual citizens to nominate outstanding DC Government employees for the 2002 Cafritz Awards. Nominations will be accepted during February and March, with five winners honored at a gala later in the year. Additional information is available by calling 202-223-2598 or on-line at:

www.dcagenda.org/pages/award/award.html

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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